for the superstitions of its times. How much, if at all, these modifications were due to the influence of Mo TFs school it is impossible to say, but one distinguished modern scholar has declared the Confucianism of the Han to be "Mohism" thinly veiled under a Confucian disguise.

From the economic standpoint, the record of Wu Ti's reign was varied. Commerce appears to have flourished. Domestic peace, the reduction of the power of the local princes, and the increased administrative unity of the Empire probably promoted the growth of internal trade. This seems to have been augmented by the extensive annexations of territory, particularly those in the South. Trade with foreign countries also increased, but, although spectacular and with important cultural consequences, in proportion to that within China's boundaries presumably it was very small. Wu Ti attempted to regulate commerce and had an official whose function it was to mitigate extreme fluctuations in it—and possibly to make a profit for the state—by buying the great staples when they were cheap and placing them on the market when prices rose. This policy, as well as the state monopoly of salt and iron, to be mentioned in a moment, apparently was adopted at the advice of a minister imbued with Legalist principles. Canals were dug—among them one between the valley of the Wei, on the North, and that of the Han on the South—probably at least in part for the purpose of facilitating communication and promoting economic prosperity as well as political union, and a great road was constructed to the South and the Southwest-

Curing a devastating famine in the North, scores of thousands

of the sufferers were moved into other territory. Great irrigation works were constructed in arid regions, a dangerous flood of the Yellow River was curbed, and thus large territories were reclaimed for cultivation.

Wu Ti's many wars and his extensive public works brought with them serious financial problems, and, at times, distress. Taxes were increased, new imposts were levied, and fresh sources of revenue were sought. The government monopoly of salt and iron, which appears to have been first attempted under Shih Huang Ti, was now extended and was placed in the hands of those merchants who had operated these industries when they were private enterprises. This seems to have been at least in part be-